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Z-14061/83

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NPIC/IEG (11/83)

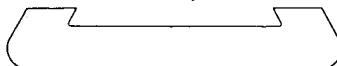
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**DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>NOFORN-</b>	<b>Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals</b>
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Attachment to Z-14061/83  
NPIC/IEG (11/83)  
1 NOVEMBER 1983**NEW PROBABLE ROCKET MOTOR  
HOHHOT SOLID PROPELLANT COMPLEX, CHINA (SWN)**

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1. SIGNIFICANCE: THIS NEW PROBABLE ROCKET MOTOR COULD BE USED IN A FUTURE CHINESE STRATEGIC MISSILE OR SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLE. (SWN)
2. REMARKS: THE NEW PROBABLE ROCKET MOTOR [REDACTED] WAS IDENTIFIED AT TEST CELL 1 [REDACTED] THE PROBABLE MOTOR WAS PRESENT [REDACTED] HOWEVER, MASKING AND HAZE PRECLUDED ITS IDENTIFICATION. THE DIMENSIONS OF THE MOTOR [REDACTED] ) INDICATE THE NEW ROCKET MOTOR IS MUCH LONGER THAN THE CSS-NX-3 FIRST STAGE [REDACTED], BUT MAY BE THE SAME DIAMETER [REDACTED] TWO HANDLING RINGS CONNECTED BY A HANDLING STRONGBACK WERE ATTACHED TO THE MOTOR. (SWN)

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ALTHOUGH NO BLAST MARK WAS DISCERNIBLE AT TEST CELL 1 ON SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER IMAGERY, A BLAST MARK WAS SEEN AT THE RECENTLY COMPLETED TEST CELL 3 [REDACTED] A ROCKET MOTOR. [REDACTED] WAS AT TEST CELL 3 [REDACTED] SINCE THE DIMENSIONS OF THAT ROCKET MOTOR MAY NOT BE ACCURATE DUE TO OBLIQUITY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE MOTOR SEEN AT TEST CELL 1 DURING OCTOBER WAS THE SAME ONE TESTED AT TEST CELL 3 IN SEPTEMBER. CONVERSELY, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE MOTOR SEEN AT TEST CELL 1 WAS NOT RELATED TO THE TEST AT TEST CELL 3, BUT WAS A MOCK-UP USED TO REHEARSE HANDLING PROCEDURES WITH A LARGE ROCKET MOTOR PRIOR TO TESTING AN ACTUAL MOTOR OF THAT SIZE. (SWN)

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ACTIVITY OBSERVED AT TEST CELL 2 SINCE JUNE 1983 ALSO SUGGESTS THAT TESTING MAY HAVE BEGUN THERE ON ANOTHER NEW ROCKET MOTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. A NEW PROBABLE VACUUM CHAMBER WAS FIRST OBSERVED AT TEST CELL 2 [REDACTED] THE VACUUM CHAMBER HAD PROBABLY BEEN POSITIONED WITHIN THE TEST CELL. [REDACTED] A DIFFUSER HAD BEEN POSITIONED WITHIN THE TEST CELL AND PROBABLY MATED WITH THE VACUUM CHAMBER. (SWN)

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ANALYST'S COMMENTS: ALTHOUGH THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF THE NEW PROBABLE ROCKET MOTOR CANNOT YET BE DETERMINED, SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES EXIST. THESE POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- (A) USE AS A FIRST STAGE OF A SOLID-PROPELLANT ICBM. NEW CASTING/CURING FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED IN THE ROCKET MOTOR PRODUCTION PLANT AT HOHHOT SINCE 1978 ARE SUITABLE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ICBM FIRST STAGE MOTORS.
- (B) USE AS A LARGER FIRST STAGE FOR THE NEW LAND-BASED VERSION OF THE CSS-NX-3. THIS MAY INCREASE THE RANGE OF THAT MISSILE FROM MRBM TO IRBM.
- (C) USE AS THE FIRST STAGE OF A NEW TWO-STAGE MISSILE OTHER THAN THE CSS-NX-3 OR ITS LAND-BASED VARIANT. THE ACTIVITY OBSERVED AT TEST CELL 2 COULD BE RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT OF A SECOND STAGE FOR SUCH A MISSILE. THE CONSTRUCTION OF TEST CELL 3 ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE CHINESE MAY DEVELOP AN ENTIRELY NEW MISSILE SYSTEM.
- (D) USE AS A STRAP-ON BOOSTER FOR A SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLE. PROBABLY AN IMPROVED VERSION OF THE CSL-X-3. (SWN) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_ COORDINATES 40-46-14N 111-59-18E (S)

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